

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in an infuser for a liquid food product, of the type which includes a pressure vessel (1) with an inlet (2) for the product located in its upper region and an outlet (6) for the product located in its lower region, said product inlet (2) being disposed to divide the product entering into the pressure vessel (1) into small droplets, and the infuser also including an inlet for steam (8) disposed such that steam enters into the upper region (1) of the pressure vessel through a concentric distribution chamber (9), ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the concentric distribution chamber (9) is defined by the wall (10) of the pressure vessel (1), a guide plate (11) and at least one foraminated plate (12).

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the apparatus includes two foraminated plates (12) which are sealingly secured against the wall (10) of the pressure vessel (1) and against the guide plate (11).

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the holes (14) of the plates (12) have a diameter of 1-10 mm.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the holes have a diameter of 2-5 mm.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~any of Claims 3 or 4,~~
~~characterised in that~~ Claim 3, wherein the guide plate (11) has an extent below the
foraminated plates (12) which at least corresponds to the diameter of the holes (14)
multiplied by ten.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~any of Claims 3 or 4,~~
~~characterised in that~~ Claim 3, wherein the guide plate (11) has an extent below the
foraminated plates (12) which is 50-60 mm.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the concentric distribution chamber (9) is designed so that the steam, on entering
the pressure vessel (1), is downwardly directed and is at a speed of < 2 m/sec.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~
wherein the apparatus includes two steam inlets (8) which are diametrically placed and
radially disposed.